

RECOGNIZING 96-YEAR-OLD WAR HERO JOHN THOMAS WILLETT, A SURVIVOR OF THE USS "LSM-169" SHIP THAT HAD TO BE EVACUATED AFTER HITTING AN ENEMY MINE DURING WWII

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John Thomas Willett, a Buffalo native who barely survived when the ship he was serving on hit an enemy mine while he was serving our great nation as a Seaman First Class in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Mr. Willett was born in Buffalo, New York in 1926 where he attended high school before enlisting in the United States Navy in 1943 at the age of 17. He spent most of his service in the Asiatic Pacific Theater during World War II. He was stationed on the USS *LSM-169* where he participated in numerous battles including the Battle of Corregidor, Luzon and Manila Bay-Bicol Operations where he achieved the rank of Seaman First Class.

On February 15, 1945 the USS *LSM-169* struck a mine off the coast of the Mariveles Harbor in the Philippines. A massive explosion caused fires on the ship but Seaman First Class Willett was on the other side of the ship and miraculously survived. The USS *LCS-48* and the USS *PC-1133* came to the rescue and saved as many service members as possible. Unfortunately, some service members lost their lives. Although he survived, after being pulled from the water and helping to rescue others, Seaman First Class Willett suffered shrapnel wounds and hearing loss due to the explosion but continued his service until he was honorably discharged from the Navy on April 14, 1946.

Upon returning home and graduating high school, John worked at Buffalo's grain elevators while attending college at night on the GI bill and got married. He enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves on February 9, 1951 and spent the next few months training at Camp Pendleton in California during the Korean conflict. He officially was discharged from military service on September 1st of the same year he returned home to Buffalo to be with his wife and four children. He is still married to his wife of 73 years, Mildred and his family eventually grew to 12 children, 31 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. He worked in the Aerospace industry for almost 40 years, retiring from MOOG to pursue woodworking, athletics and volunteer work including Meals on Wheels, Habitat for Humanity, to name just a few.

I am proud to recognize the bravery of World War II Veteran John Thomas Willett.

CONGRATULATING ANDREW LISTER FOR RECEIVING THE GOLDEN APPLE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Andrew Lister, a teacher from

Orion High School, for receiving the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Golden Apple Foundation.

The Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes and honors our most outstanding teachers for the positive and lasting impact they have on our students' lives and our community as a whole. Mr. Lister is one of 10 award recipients in Illinois—selected out of 400 nominations of 9 through 12 grade teachers. I'm so glad to see Mr. Lister recognized for inspiring students at Orion High School and his overall contributions to the Orion community.

It is because of committed and honorable educators such as Mr. Lister that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Andrew Lister for receiving the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

HONORING JEAN MORALES-RAMOS

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Jean Morales-Ramos, upon his acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

As a future midshipman, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most elite naval force, guided by the motto: "Semper Fortis".

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our Nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

And throughout our history, American servicemembers have demonstrated tremendous courage and strength, beating back tyranny to the ends of the earth.

I was glad to sponsor Jean's nomination and I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers during his time at the Academy and thereafter.

I congratulate Jean, and know he will make this Nation proud.

RECOGNIZING GAME WARDEN AARON KAMMANN

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the outstanding work of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks' Region 3 Gallatin District Game Warden, Mr. Aaron Kammann from Bozeman, Montana.

Montana's game wardens have a responsibility to provide protection for Montana's diverse and highly treasured natural resources, and Warden Kammann's actions exemplify proper stewardship of the Treasure State and commitment to Montana values and outdoor traditions.

In addition, Mr. Kammann regularly brings confiscated and damaged wild game to a local food bank, FoodArk, which processes and distributes meat to those in need. His work ethic embodies the core principles of duty, selfless-

ness, and resourcefulness, and Montana is grateful for his public service.

I thank Aaron for serving the people of Montana.

RECOGNIZING CORPORAL PATRICK DANIEL MCKEE

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Patrick Daniel McKee. After 29 years of service with the Plumstead Township Police Department, Corporal McKee is retiring. Born and raised in Plumstead, Patrick graduated Central Bucks East High School and then began working in the auto repair field, finding such success that he owned and operated his own repair and service station. In December 1992, Patrick decided to attend the Montgomery County Community College Police Academy. By April 1993, he was hired by his hometown police department in Plumstead Township as a full-time, sworn police officer. Throughout his time with the department, he served as a Detective and attended numerous training programs related to investigations, including the highly regarded FBI Intercounty Detective Training Program in 1998. By 2004, Patrick was promoted to the rank of Corporal and given the responsibility of overseeing a squad of patrol officers. Patrick also served as one of the department's Firearms Instructors and armorer, training law enforcement officers in the proper use and safe handling of firearms.

Throughout Corporal McKee's career, his commitment to service has not gone unnoticed. Members of the community writing to the department have expressed thanks for Patrick's gracious, friendly, and respectful demeanor both in and out of uniform. He has also received letters of commendation from the Bucks County District Attorneys' Office and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, to name just a couple. Patrick has proven himself to be an officer committed to protecting and defending his hometown and his neighbors.

We are incredibly grateful for the positive impact that Corporal Patrick Daniel McKee has had throughout his long career of public service, and we wish him countless blessings during his retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS LEGAL SUPPORT ACT OF 2022

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Veterans Legal Support Act of 2022, which would allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide support to law school clinical programs that provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. There are already at least 22 law schools that have clinics devoted to veterans' legal needs, including the